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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/086,139	02/26/2002	Nobuyoshi Kishida	1232-4826	4157
27123	7590	09/07/2004	EXAMINER	
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P. 3 WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER NEW YORK, NY 10281-2101			SANDERS JR, JOHN R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3737	
DATE MAILED: 09/07/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/086,139	Applicant(s) KISHIDA ET AL.	
	Examiner John R. Sanders	Art Unit 3737	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 April 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2,4,9-17 and 19-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2,4,9-17 and 19-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 09 April 2004 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. **Claims 2, 4, 9-17, and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kishida et al.* in view of *Aizu et al.*, both of record.**

4. Regarding claims 2, 4, 12, 13 and 20, *Kishida* discloses an eye fundus blood flow meter with image pickup, display and laser measurement means. *Kishida* discloses a tracking control means for changing a measurement state (col. 3: 5-14). The display state is changed in accordance with the measurement state during image rotation (col. 6: 7-32). *Kishida* discloses displaying a fundus image on a display 56 and calculation results on a display unit 64 (col. 4: 25-54). *Kishida* discloses a CCD sensor that picks up an image enlarged more than the image on the television camera (col. 6: 41-47), but does not disclose expressly changing the size or zoom ratio of the eye fundus image.

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5. *Aizu* teaches that magnification of the eye fundus is desirable for proper laser beam placement in a blood flow meter (col. 17: 38 - col. 18: 9). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to zoom the image of the fundus during blood flow measurement in order to facilitate precise placement of the laser. It would further be obvious to zoom the image only when the beam position is determinable, thereby not limiting the scope of the display while determining the beam position.

6. Regarding claim 9 and 21, *Kishida* discloses the above limitations, but does not expressly disclose an illumination means in addition to the laser measurement means. *Aizu* teaches an observation light source apart from the measurement laser (FIG. 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art include an observation light source for general illumination, as in *Aizu*.

7. Regarding claims 10 and 11, *Kishida* does not disclose expressly the display position or zooming ratio changeable to display the beam position in the center of the display area. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to always ensure that, in a blood flow meter with a display device, the display is centered on the area of interest, i.e., the measurement laser beam and the blood vessel being measured.

8. Regarding claim 14, *Kishida* discloses displaying a fundus image on a display 56 and calculation results on a display unit 64 (col. 4: 25-54). A broad interpretation of the limitation “display means” incorporates a display having more than one screen or display component.

9. Regarding claim 15, *Kishida* discloses a signal input means as start-stop switch 88. It is inherent that the signal input means changes the state of the display, i.e., from not showing data prior to the measurement to showing data during the measurement.

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10. Regarding claims 16 and 17, *Kishida* discloses changing the display state based on the position of the beam (col. 6, lines 7-47).

11. Regarding claim 19, *Kishida* discloses a signal input means as start-stop switch 88. It is inherent that the signal input means changes the state of the display, i.e., from not showing data prior to the measurement to showing data during the measurement.

Response to Arguments

12. Applicant has traversed the rejections of the independent claims based on the assertion that:

“Neither *Kishida* nor *Aizu* show or suggest at least the claimed feature that the eye fundus image displayed on display means is enlarged at the time of illuminating the laser beam.”

(page 7, paragraph 5)

13. Examiner respectfully disagrees. *Aizu* teaches, in column 17, lines 49-56, “Preferably, the view of the eye fundus should be magnified to facilitate the precise positioning of the laser beam on the blood vessel concerned. Observation will also be aided by using a wider angle of view that provides an overview of the blood vessels of the eye fundus. To achieve this, it is necessary to be able to change the angle of view to match the measurement objective.”

14. By disclosing both a wide-angle view for an overview of the fundus and a magnified view for placement of the laser, *Aizu* provides motivation for the enlargement of an eye fundus image when positioning the laser on a blood vessel.

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Conclusion

15. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the application prior to the entry of the submission under 37 CFR 1.114 and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the application prior to entry under 37 CFR 1.114. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action after the filing of a request for continued examination and the submission under 37 CFR 1.114. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John R. Sanders whose telephone number is (703) 305-4974. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian L. Casler can be reached on (703) 308-3552. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


jrs


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